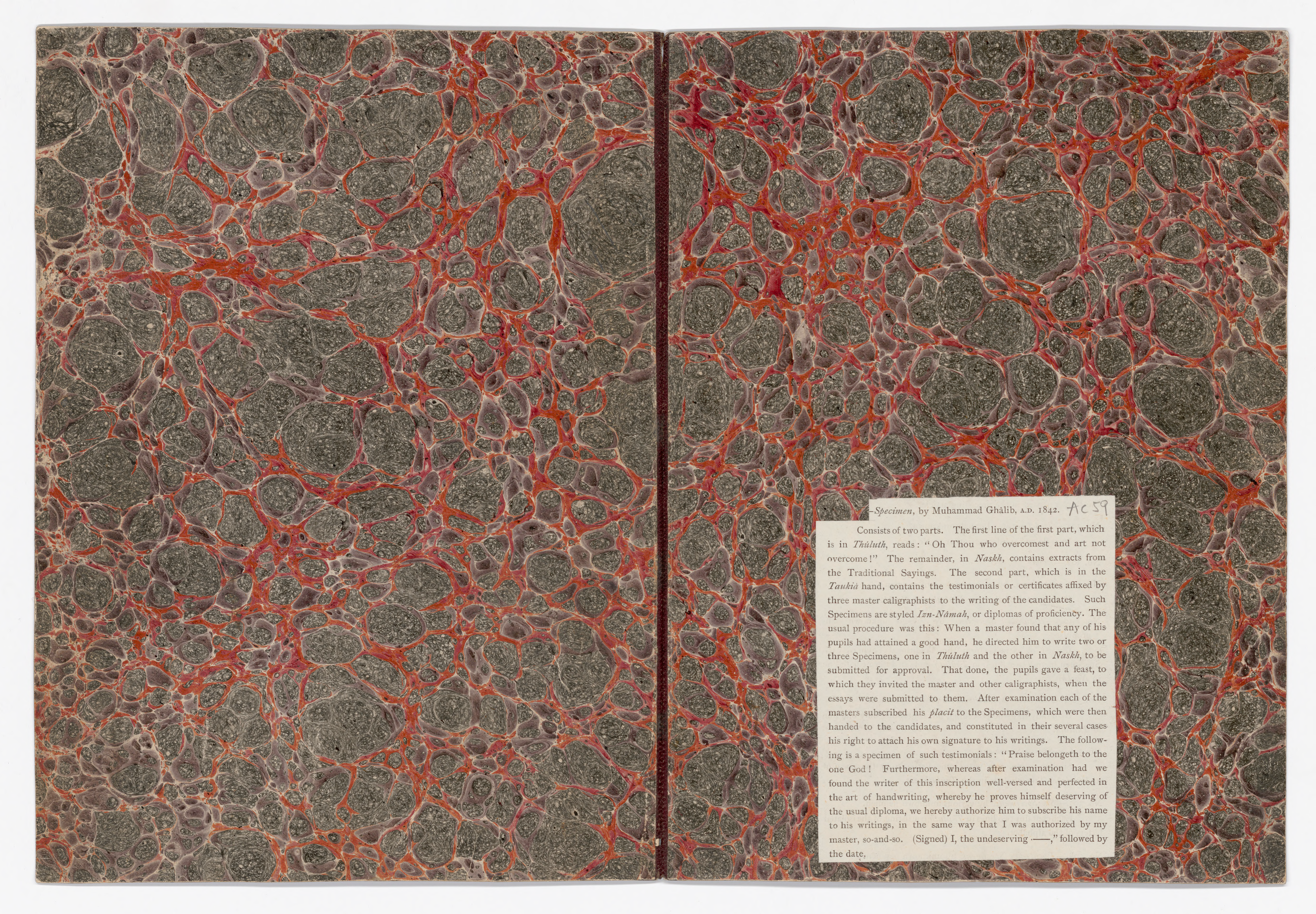


Arabic Manuscript
Written by Muhammad Ghâlib, A. D. 1842

Consists of two parts. The first line of the first part, which is in Thuluth, reads: "Oh Thou who overcomest and art not overcome." The remainder, in Naskh, contains extracts from the Traditional Sayings. The second part, which is in the Taukiâ hand, contains the testimonials or certificates affixed by three master calligraphists to the writing of the candidates. Such specimens are styled Izn-Nâmah, or diplomas of proficiency. The usual proceedure was this: When a master found that any of his pupils had attained a good hand, he directed him to write two or three Specimens, one in Thuluth and the other in Naskh, to be submitted for approval. That done, the pupils gave a feast, to which they invited the master and other calligraphists, when the essays were submitted to them. After examination each of the masters subscribed his placit to the Specimens, which were then handed to the candidates, and constituted in their cases his right to attach his own signature to his writings. The following is a speciman of such testimonials: "Praise belongeth to the one God. Furthermore, whereas after examination we had found the writer of this inscription well-versed and perfected in the art of hand-writing, whereby he proves himself deserving of the usual diploma, we hereby authorize him to subscribe his name to his writings, in the same way that I was authorized by my master , so and so. (Signed) I, the undeserving ----," followed by the date.



-*Specimen*, by Muhammad Ghâlib, A.D. 1842. AC 59

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